Chairman, Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has been requesting the Government of India for the last several years for some of the facilities to be provided to encourage exports and to ensure all-round development of the State and the prominent among these are :-

(i) Direct international cargo flights from Hyderabad to foreign destinations;

(ii) Cold storage facilities at Hyderabad Airport; and

(iii) Providing of infrastructure and staff at Hyderabad airport for importing plant and materials through Hyderabad airport not notifying it as plant quarantine and fumigation station.

In the absence of the above facilities at the Hyderabad Airport, the export of horticulture and floriculture products are facing avoidable difficulties. Further, in the absence of quarantine facilities, import of seed plant materials is also suffering. Our State Government had also written to the Government of India to ensure that orders concerning the above issues are issued at the earliest. It was also pointed out that the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation had approached the National Airport Authority of India to set up a cold storage at Hyderabad airport. But for some reason or the other, the establishment of a cold storage at Hyderabad Airport has not materialised with the result that the farming community in Andhra Pradesh is adversely affected.

I request the Union Government to expedite the above mentioned works which have been pending for long so that the agro-industrial development of the State may take place which is very essential for the progress and prosperity of our nation.

**(ix) Need for Construction of Building of Madnoor Post Office in Nizamabad District, Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : All India Postal Employees Union, Class-III and EDAS Branch Banswada, District Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh had represented for construction of departmental building for Madnoor Post Office on the donated land including the staff quarters. The present Post Office at Madnoor is located in a rented house far away from the central village. The people have to walk longer distance which is very inconvenient to them. The villagers have donated land for the construction of Post Office and also for construction of staff quarters.

In addition, there was a long standing demand to upgrade Banswada Sub-head Post Office as Head Post Office as it caters to the Savings Bank Account and RD Account holders of Banswada, Bichkunda, Birkur Madnoor, Pitlam and Jukkal areas. In this regard, a representation was forwarded to the Government on 19 October, 1996. Seven months have passed since then, no action seems to have been initiated by the Government.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Communications to take action for construction of departmental building for Madnoor Post Office and staff quarters on the donated land which has been available to the Government. Moreover, Banswada Sub-Head Post Office may be upgraded as Head Post Office immediately.

**(x) Need to give ten percent houses under Indira Avas Yojana to the minorities.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): The Government of Bihar has introduced the policy of providing ten percent houses under Indira Avas Yojana to the minorities. It is a good step. The Union Government is requested to implement this policy in the whole country in order to improve the standard of living of the poor Muslims because a large number of Muslims in the country are living below poverty line at present. At the same time the cost of Indira Avas Yojana should be increased because the cost fixed at present is not sufficient for constructing the house.

Therefore, I request the Government to make announcement regarding providing 10 percent houses to minorities under the Indira Avas Yojana.

**(xi) Need to rejuvenate Fertilizer Units in the country particularly in Bihar**

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar): There in an urgent need to rejuvenate the Chemical and fertilizer units in the country not only to increase constantly the agricultural production in the country but also to make the country self-sufficient in foodgrains and competitive in the world markets. A decision needs to be taken urgently to rejuvenate the units functioning under the control of Hindustan Fertilizers and Fertilizers Corporation of India particularly the Barauni and Sindri fertilizer units of Bihar. Keeping in view the infrastructure available in Barauni, Certain specialists, Committees and previous Government have made recommendation for its reconstruction only in

[Shri Shatrughan Prasad Singh]

Rs. four hundred crores. Import of fertilizers costs more and setting up new factories would cost twelve hundred crores of Rupees.

Therefore, the factories of our countries should be rejuvenated from every point of view.

**(xii) Need to Formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Revival of Sick Public Undertakings**

*[English]*

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : The present state of suspense for the sick public sector enterprises, if continued any longer, might end up doing irreparable damage to the enterprises.

The jurisdiction of BIFR to deal with the sick public sector enterprises appears to be a misconceived approach for solving the problems of the public enterprises. The delays involved in the disposal of cases by the BIFR are well known. Moreover, the decisions of the BIFR are not binding on either the Government or the enterprises or the workers or the financial institutions that have provided capital to the public enterprises. Any of the interested parties can go in for appeal in the Courts against the decisions of the BIFR, turning the entire process to an infructuous exercise.

The most urgent task for the Union Government, therefore, is to formulate a comprehensive and well-defined policy package for viability of the Central Sick Public Enterprises.

**(xiii) Need to take steps to increase the production of Coal in South Karnapura area, Bihar**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the South Karnapura coal belt of Bihar has deposits of high grade coal. Despite this the production of coal has been declining every year. It is being said that coal production is becoming increasingly difficult due to non-availability of the technique of thick sim mining so far. The thick sim mining technique is available in other parts of the world.

**18.18 hrs.**

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the chair*]

Therefore I request the Government to increase the production of coal in South Karnapura area of Bihar.

**(xiv) Need for Early Completion of Certain Pending Railway Projects in West Bengal**

*[English]*

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the long-standing demands of the people of the districts of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar – (i) Gauge conversion of line from New Jalpaiguri – Siliguri Junction- Alipurduar Junction leading to Bongaigaon; (ii) survey for integrated Railway networks in the districts of Coochbehar leading to Dhubri, Assam have not been undertaken though these two schemes have already been included in the 1997-98 Budget. These demands have been raised from time to time and the Chief Minister of West Bengal has already drawn the attention of the Government to complete these two railway projects. The economic development of these areas depends largely on these projects and these two projects would be revenue earning routes of the Indian Railways.

I do urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so that the above-mentioned projects may be undertaken without any further delay as these two project are hanging for a quite long time.

**(xv) Need to project the interests of betel leaf growers, particularly in Lalitpur district in U.P.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Chairman , Sir, cultivation of betel leaf is undertaken on a large scale in Bundelkhand division of Uttar Pradesh. The Farmers have to work hard and spend a lot on the cultivation of betel leaf. Sometimes the growers have to suffer heavy loss because of the damage caused by the insects and fire incidents. It is so serious that the farmers have to sell their property to make their both ends meet. The Government have not prepared any such scheme by which the betel leaf growers could get a place in world market and earn profit. The Government should implement compulsory crop insurance scheme for Betel Leaf and the State Government should bear the half of the insurance premium. The Union Government should take initiative for the implementation of such insurance scheme. In addition to it, the Government should make arrangement for pesticides and irrigation facilities to the farmers. If the Government does not pay timely need to it, the farmers would stop cultivation of betel leaf. In Pali area of Lalitpur